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REVOLUTIONARY ARMY ORDERS

For the Main Army under Washington. 1778-1779.

(From Originals in the Collection in the Virginia Historical Society.)

(CONTINUED)

REVOLUTIONARY ORDER* BOOK, SMITH COVE, SEPT., 1779, TO MORRISTOWN, DEC. 2, 1779.

[Beginning gone]

6thly.[1] For ordering a Retreat from the Fort before a party of the Enimy in a Redout had been made Prisoner which might Easly affected; and was Solicted by many of the Officers, & not only Leaving that undone but suffering the Stores Blockhouses & works to Remain Entire When they might so Easly have been Distroyed.

7th. For bring'g off the Party in such a Confused irregular & unmilitary manner that they might have fallen prey to a very inconsiderable Number of the Enemy, had the attempted to have Entercepted them.

8thly & lastly, for behave'g in a manner unbecoming an Officer And a Gentleman.

The Court having Considered the 1st Charge are of a Opinion its unsupported with evidents and is Groundless and do acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the Second Charge are of Opinion that Major Lee did through inattention Give Major Clark a wrong date of his Commission but by no means intend-

*A new order book begins here.

[1] This is evidently part of the record of a court-martial for the trial of Major Henry Lee, apparendy on charges of misconduct after the capture of Paulus Hook, July 19, 1779. Lee received a medal from Congress for this exploit.

ing of Emposing on Major Clark by Assuming the Comm'd of him having Express Orders from his Excellency the Command'r in Chief, for that Special Comm'd and acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the 3d Charge are of a Opinion that there was Some Disorder in the Line of M'ch to Paulis hook, And that the Greatest part of the 1st Battallion was Seperated from the Column in the Darkness of the night in marching through the woods. They are further of Opinion that the Disorder & Seperation did not proceed from any neglect or want of attention of Major Lee's, & do acquit him with honour. The Court having Considered the 4th Charge are of Opinion that Major Lee ordering Cap't Forsyth to take the Comm'd of the Column Which before had been Comm'd by Capt. Smith, which Order was in Consequence of Capt. Forsyth being well acquainted with the Situation of the Enemy that it was impossible for Major Lee to know the Dates of the Officers Commissions & do acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the 5th Charge are of a Opinion that major Lee Gave the Com'd of the forlorn hope to Lieut. McCallester, which was Occasioned by his being under the Necessity of altering his Mode of Attact in Consequence of the Seperation of the Troops and do acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the 6th Charge Are of Opinion that Major Lee in Evacuating the fort Immediately after it was taken Acted in perfect Conformity to the Order of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, the time the Assult was made and the Apprehention of being Intercepted in his Retreat fully Justifies his Conduct & do acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the 7th Charge Are of Opinion that perfect Military ord'r was preserved in the Retreat of the Troops in the reare ware Major Lee Com'd in person that if the Enemy made an attempt to Intercept his Retreat which he Subverted by his Activity & Judgm't & do acquit him with honour.

The Court having Considered the 8th & last Charge Are

of Opinion that Major Lee's Conduct was Uniform & Regular Supporting his Military Charector magnanimity & Judgm't & that he by no means Acted Darogatory to the Gentleman & Soldier, which Charector he fills with honour to his Country & Crediet to the Army.

The Commander in Chief Confirms the Opinion of the Court.

Major Lee is released from his Arest.

GEO. WASHINGTON, Com'r in Chief.

D. O. Smith Clove, Sep'r 14th, '79.

Field Officer Lieut. Colo. Hawes.[2]

Sev. parties for fatuage Each Consisting of a Sub & 20 men to join Capt. Ewell[3] tomorrow morning on the Ringwood Road & to Continue with him untill that work be Compleated the are to go furnished with Pick Ax's & Spades.

A fatuage party of 1 Capt. 2 Sub: & 40 men for one week to work on the Road to parade tomorrow morning & to be furnished with 8 hand barrows pick Axes Spades & Shovels the Capt. to Call at Lord Sterlings quarters this Afternoon for his Instructions.

For Police, Capt. Gillison.[4]

D. O. Smith Clove, Septem'r 15th, '79.

Field Officer tomorrow Lieut. Colo. Dabney.

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[2] Samuel Hawes, captain 3rd Virginia, 19th February, 1776; major 10th Virginia, 4th October, 1777; lieutenant-colonel, 1st March, 1778, regiment designated 6th Virginia, 14th September, 1778; transferred to 5th Virginia 1st January, 1783, and served to 13th November, 1783.

[3] Charles Ewell, of Prince William county, captain 1st Virginia State June 1, 1778, to January, 1781. He was born September 29, 1760, and died in Ballard county, Ky., April 1, 1830. See Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, p. 344.

[4] John Gillison, captain 10th Virginia, November 18, 177[illegible]; transferred to 6th Virginia, September 14, 1778; taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12, 1780; retired January 1, 1783.

	S	P
For Picket	1	13
	C	
For in Guard	1	6
	C	
Quarter	1	6

Capt. Hamilton 1 For in G'd.
" 2 for Picket.

Sept. 15th, '79.

The two Brigades & Every Corps attending them are to be in Readiness to march as Soon as Possible, it wod be happy if this Could be at 9 o'clock, but least the waggons & horses Should not be Ready the Brigade Inspector and Quarter Masters are to Report to their Respective Brigadiers how Soon they may be Ready on Report of the Brigadier, the major Gen'l will Give Necessary Orders for the march.

Septem'r 16th, '79.

No Soldier is to be Suffered to Go on a Patrolling party bear footed. They Adj'ts are to look to this and the officer that are to Comm'd the patrolls is to Refuse Such men, and are to Report the Adj'ts.

The H'ble The Congress have been pleased to pass the following Act, The 16th of Aug't last in Congress,

Aug't 16th, '79. Resolved that the Clother Gen'l Estimates the Value of the Several Articles of the Soldiers Clothing at the prices the were Respectively worth. At the End of the year 1778, and furtherwith Transmit Such Estimates To the paymasters of the Several Regm'ts, who Shall be furnished out of the Military Chest, With Money to pay they Soldiers for all such Defficency of Clothing at the Estimated prices of Every Article as fixed by the Clothier Gen'l Who shall Henceforward Transmit Such Estimates before the Close of Each Year During the war, So that they Soldiers be payed by the

Regimental paymaster—according to such Estimate Annually, & previous to their Discharge. When the Same happens before the End of the Year, For all Articles of Clothing Allowed them by a Resolution of Congress of the 6th of Sep'r '77. Which they have not Rec'd—And w'ch are or shall be Due them after the Year last mentioned.

The Following is the Clothier Gen'ls Estimates of the Average, 78.

An Estimate of ye Average price in Dec'r, '78, of the Different Articles of Clothing Allowed the Soldiers by Act of Congress Sep'r the 6th, '77.

A Coat	25 Dollars	1 pair Hose	4 Dollars
Vest	9 Do	1 pair Shoes	6 Do
Breeches	10 Do	1 Blanket	20 Do
Shirt	8 Do	1 Overalls	6 Do
1 p'r Wollen Overalls		14 Dollars	
1 Felt		6 Do	
1 Hunting Shirt		6 Do	
Total		114 Dollars	

The Above Estimates is formed agreeable to an Act of Congress of the 16th ultimo, and is founded upon the information which I have been able to Obtain in this City And on a Retrospect to the Invoices of the purchasing Agent to the Estwar During the above mentioned Month of Dec'r, '78.

A Greeable to which the Brigadier Generals will cause Certificates to be made Out of all Diffecency of Clothing Delivered to the Soldery in '78, These Certificates are to be Rec'd & Collected by they Regimental pay-master Giving their Recepts for the Same, who are monthly to make an Acco't of them, and to apply to his Excellency the Commander in Chief For a Warrent on the pay-master Gen'l for the Am't & to Give notice in Regimental Orders When he will pay they Men. And Take up his Receipts.

Which he is accordingly punctualy to Do if any Averages for Such Difficency be Still Due for the Year '77.

The Articles are to be Specified in the Certificate But the Value is not to be Expressed. They paymasters after Collect'g them Regimentally are to make Application to Mr. Ralph Furnoy[?] who is Commission'd and is to be found by inquiring at head Quarters. The Defficiencies of the presen' Year Cannot be adjusted untill the End of it.

In all Certificates, The Articles Difficent and the Adjusted Value of them & the whole Amou't are to be Specified in words at length, and not in figures—unless it's by way of Recapitulation.

A Serj't & 12 men to go Each of the Pickets in the mountains provided with Axes in order to make low Hutts to Cover those pickets from Each, they are to be Cover'd with Slabbs of loggs Split, or with Bark— these party to Continue untill the work be finished.

The Officer of the day Visiting these Pickets will Direct how the shall be built & how placed, all parties of fatuage are to be Supplied with One Gill Rum, 4 ozs. of meat & Bread per day Extroir'y provided that they are industrus and do their work well, when the Contrary is Observed, This Extra of allowance will be stoped, The working parties wherever placed, are at night to keep up a small Guard, and send out Centrys to keep them from any surprise.

A Return of Shoes in Each Brigade to be made out to their Respective Brigadiers who will cause them to be applyed for to the Clothier Gen'l or his Depity, or to take any other Effectial Steps for obtaining them as soon as possible.

D. O. Smith Clove, Septem'r 16th, '79.

Field Officer Lieut. Colo. Allison. The Gen'l to beat at 9 o'Clock. The Troop half an hour afterwards. And they Troops to march precisely at 10. The Baggage will Succeed they Troops, One Regm't to march in the Rear of the Baggage. The most perfect Order & Regularty is to be Observed throughout the whole line of march.

(TO BE CONTINUED)